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12-19-07

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United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Wednesday, December 19, 2007
From: Verneta Simon, on-scene coordinator

Subject: INITIAL POLREP
Deerfield Residential Mercury Spill
Ash Street, Deerfield, IL

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



286201

938866

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	
Reporting Period:	12/18/07	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	12/19/2007	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	12/18/2007	Response Type:	Emergency
Completion Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
RCRIS ID #:		Contract #	

Site Description

On October 18, 2007, a mercury release was reported to the local poison control by Non-Responsive, the resident at Ash Street, Deerfield, IL. Poison control recommended that she contact United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). U.S. EPA duty officer, Leonard Zintak, contacted On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Verneta Simon at 1930 hours and filed an incident report with the National Response Center. According to the incident report, the mercury release was from a broken thermometer at Ash Street, Deerfield, Illinois. On December 19, 2007, the three year old child of Non-Responsive was playing in his bedroom when he broke a mercury-containing medical thermometer. They noticed the release on the books that the child was reading and responded by vacuuming the carpeting. After researching mercury in the Internet, the parents realized that their response was not appropriate and called poison control. They placed the remains of the broken thermometer into a sealable plastic bag and put the vacuum cleaner and books in garbage bags, outside of the house.

Current Activities

At 2200 hours on December 18, 2007, OSC Simon and Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON) Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) personnel mobilized to the Ash Street residence. Upon arrival, OSC Simon and WESTON START personnel Jay Rauh met with Non-Responsive. They expressed concern that their two children were exposed to elemental mercury. They have two children living at the house, a three year old and a one year old. U.S. EPA and START entered the bedroom of the 3 year-old at 2230 hours and conducted air monitoring with a Lumex MVA. The HVAC system in the house

had been stopped by the residents, and the temperature in the living room and kitchen area was approximately 60°F. The maximum breathing zone mercury level detected in the living room and kitchen area was 12,581 ng/m³. The child's bedroom door was closed with the window open. The maximum breathing zone mercury level detected was 6,250 ng/m³ (at a temperature of approximately 55°F). The master bedroom door was closed, but there was an electrical heater running in the room. The maximum breathing zone mercury level detected was 29,067 ng/m³ (at a temperature of approximately 75°F). The HVAC system was located near the kitchen. The filter was screened, but the reading was not elevated over the background level in the room. At the request of the residents, the children and a small dog were screened. No readings were elevated above those in the living room. The vacuum cleaner that had been used to vacuum the mercury had been bagged and placed outside prior to the arrival of OSC Simon and START Rauh and was had mercury level of 481 ng/m³. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) recommends 1,000 ng/m³ in the breathing zone for residential occupancy, and 10,000 ng/m³ for personal belongings.

OSC Simon recommended that the residents vacate the house until further characterization and removal activities were complete. She arranged for an ATSDR physician to call the residents to address concerns about their children's health.

Planned Removal Actions

Mobilize ERRS contractors to remediate the mercury at the residence.

Next Steps

- ☐ Mobilize ERRS contractors to the mercury release at Ash Street;
- ☐ Monitor effectiveness of removal activities.

Key Issues

- ☐ Ensure that the residence at Ash Street is secured while a remediation work plan/strategy is determined and implemented;
- ☐ Ensure that the children are not exposed to further mercury contamination.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

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